

**THE
COMMUNIST
PARTY**

**24th
NATIONAL
CONGRESS**

**REPORT
OF THE
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1954—DECEMBER 1955

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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**to the 24th National Congress
of the Communist Party**

1. INTRODUCTION

THIS report covers the period from January 1954 to December 1955. During this period very important successes have been achieved by the world peace movement, leading to the Geneva Conference of Heads of State in July 1955. The Foreign Ministers' Conference which followed it in October showed, however, that there is a great need for further public pressure on the Governments of the Western Powers, who have not yet displayed any readiness to undertake genuine negotiations on the main international issues.

This period has also seen important mass actions of the British people in their resistance to the attacks of the Tory Government and the employers on their living conditions. Particularly noteworthy has been the development of a powerful tenants' movement in resistance to increased rents.

Our Party has kept to the fore the fight to end the colonial wars in Malaya, Kenya and Cyprus, and to bring home to the British people the need for common struggle with the colonial peoples against imperialism.

The Communist Party has made an important and indispensable contribution to the development of the fight for a new policy in the Labour movement. Both before and since the General Election of 1955 we have stressed that the only way to defeat the Tories is by the carrying out of a real anti-Tory policy based on working-class principles. Our contests, both in the general and local elections, placed this alternative policy before important sections of the electorate.

In all this work and activity a very great effort has been made, arising from the decisions of the last Congress, to build and strengthen the Communist Party and Young Communist League, win new readers for the *Daily Worker*, and improve every aspect of the Communist Party's public activity and organisation.

The Executive Committee wishes to place on record its appreciation of the splendid work done by our Party members and organisations during this period. We can be confident that in the new situation now opening up, great further advances can be made if we take advantage of the opportunities before us.

2. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In the period leading up to the last Party Congress held at Easter 1954, the Executive Committee gave great attention to the preparations for the Congress, issuing a Discussion Statement and other materials.

At the time of the Berlin Foreign Ministers' Conference, a statement was issued drawing attention to the great importance of the Soviet proposals on European security.

After the conference an open letter to members of the Labour Party, trade unions and Co-operative movement was issued by Comrade Pollitt on behalf of the Executive Committee, calling for the development of a great united campaign against German rearmament.

Preparations on a greater scale than previously were carried through for the Party's participation in the local elections.

During this period important wages struggles were taking place, with the fight of the electrical contracting workers in the forefront.

The explosion of the H-bomb at Bikini in March 1955 was followed by a great movement of the people demanding the abolition and banning of nuclear weapons. The Party gave support to the petition on this question which was launched by a number of Labour M.P.s and others, and in addition a great many local petitions were organised and numerous other expressions of public opinion took place.

The decision was taken to contest the parliamentary by-election in Motherwell with John Gollan as candidate. This was followed by a magnificent campaign in the constituency, and the Party and the *Daily Worker* conducted a national campaign around the by-election. Our candidate received 1,457 votes.

The Party conducted considerable activity against the 1954 Budget, including the issuing in many districts of leaflets on the Budget on the morning after it was announced.

The report made by Comrade Pollitt to the 23rd National Congress was published as a pamphlet entitled *Challenge to Labour*, and a campaign was launched around the decisions of the Congress.

In the local elections in 1954 the Party contested with 189 candidates and received 40,846 votes. Later, the Electoral Commission issued a report on the elections.

Following on the Party Congress, the Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties Within the Sphere of British Imperialism was held in London, and its decisions and discussions were supported and publicised by our Party.

At the time of the conference at Geneva held in April 1954 the Party carried on activity which contributed to the success of that conference in bringing about a cease-fire in Indo-China. The strongest opposition developed in the Labour movement against the U.S. plans to intervene in Indo-China and drag Britain in.

Protests were also organised against U.S. intervention in Guatemala in May 1954.

The July 1954 meeting of the Executive Committee devoted special attention to the fight for peace, the position of the peace movement and the need for increased efforts to prevent German rearmament. It also called for action against the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, and in the period after this Act came into operation, many tenants' movements developed to prevent private landlords from raising rents.

The decision of the Government to make Cyprus a main war base following on the events in Egypt was the subject of an immediate statement from the Party protesting against the decision and calling for self-determination for the people of Cyprus.

Following on the defeat of E.D.C., new attempts were made by the Western Powers to go ahead with German rearmament. These were met by increased popular resistance, expressed in the votes recorded against German rearmament both at the T.U.C. and the Labour Party conference. On 23 October a National Poster Parade Day against German rearmament was organised.

The strikes of the London busmen, dockers, lightermen and ship repair workers in the autumn of 1954 were a further demonstration of the militancy of the workers, and we drew attention to the need for solidarity with them to be expressed by other sections of the working class. Early in 1955 the railwaymen won an important victory in their fight for higher wages as a result of their militancy.

At the end of 1954 and early in 1955 a series of emergency membership rallies covering every district was organised, each addressed by Harry Pollitt and John Gollan. These played a major part in mobilising the whole Party for the campaign against German rearmament, and contributed greatly to the assistance the Party was able to give to the National Lobby of Parliament organised by the British Peace Committee on 25 January 1955.

Strong opposition also developed against the provocative actions of the American Government and Chiang Kai-shek against China.

The announcement that Britain was to produce the hydrogen bomb touched off another wave of opposition to nuclear weapons, and the British people participated in the world campaign launched against these weapons by the World Peace Council by the resolutions passed at trade union conferences, church gatherings, Co-operative conferences etc. Organisations representing many millions of people went on record for the banning of nuclear weapons.

The question of coloured workers in Britain came much into the public eye at this time and a statement on the matter was issued by the Party.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the *Daily Worker* was celebrated by joint Communist Party and *Daily Worker* rallies all over Britain.

The report given by Comrade Goilan to the March 1955 meeting of the Executive Committee, which dealt with the need to strengthen the Communist Party and its organisation, was widely discussed throughout the Party and was reprinted as a pamphlet.

In the local elections of 1955 the Party contested with 330 candidates who received over 80,000 votes.

The announcement of the General Election was the subject of a statement by the Party calling for the defeat of the Tories and the fight for an alternative policy. Special steps were immediately taken to ensure the best possible campaign behind the Communist candidates. Our candidates and the Party as a whole conducted a magnificent fight in the election. Comrade Pollitt, who came back early from his visit to China (on which he was accompanied by Comrade Stewart), addressed meetings in all the Party constituencies, and members of the Political Committee worked in the constituencies. In a number of the constituencies there was an increase in the votes of the Party.

The constituencies, candidates and votes received were as follows:—

London

Hackney Central	J. Betteridge	1,530
St. Pancras North	J. Nicholson	1,303
Southwark	J. Bent	959
Stepney	S. Kaye	2,888
Stoke Newington and Hackney		
North	A. Morris	1,525
Hornsey	G. J. Jones	1,442

Scotland

West Fife	W. Lauchlan	5,389
Springburn	F. Hart	1,532
Gorbals	P. Kerrigan	2,491
Dumbarton East	A. Henderson	2,448
Dundee West	D. Bowman	1,335

Wales

Rhondda East	A. Powell	4,544
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Yorkshire

Sheffield, Brightside	H. Hill	1,461
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Lancashire

Wigan	T. Rowlandson	1,567
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East Midlands

N. Nottingham	J. Peck	916
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West Middlesex

Hayes	F. Foster	886
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Midlands

Birmingham, Perry Bar	H. Pearce	928
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After the election, the party made new efforts in the fight for peace in preparation for the conference of Heads of State at Geneva. Both before and after the conference statements were issued giving our views on the position.

The campaign we conducted for a new policy in the Labour movement was reflected in the Trades Union Congress discussions and the resolutions on the agenda of the Labour Party Conference.

The Butler cuts of July were followed by the autumn Budget, and the Party did everything possible to voice resistance to these Tory attacks. In particular we gave full support to the tenants in their great fight against increased rents.

During the summer, special material was issued in connection with the thirty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Communist Party.

Prior to the Foreign Ministers' Conference in October, the British Peace Committee organised another great National Lobby of Parliament on 25 October. The Party gave full support to the campaign for this Lobby.

During the period since the last Congress the Party has initiated and participated in many activities directed towards ending the wars in Malaya and Kenya, and against the oppression of the people of Cyprus. Material on these questions has been regularly published in the Party press.

Considerable activity has also been conducted in support of the victims of American reaction, and especially the leaders of the Communist Party of the U.S.A. This work has been greatly strengthened by the contribution made by Comrade John Williamson, former member of the Central Board of the C.P.U.S.A., who was deported to Britain during 1955.

Many other acts of international solidarity were also undertaken, including the issue of statements on the persecution of Greek patriots, the situation in Iraq, the attacks on the Communist Party of Germany, etc.

Continuous attention has been given to the strengthening of the Young Communist League, the circulation of *Challenge*, and the development of the Party's youth work. A successful Youth Week was held in September 1954.

Work amongst women was discussed at the September 1955 meeting of the Executive Committee, and constant attention to this aspect of the Party's work has been paid.

In its thirteen ordinary meetings since the last Congress, the Executive Committee has discussed, in addition to those mentioned above, the following matters:

The Economic Situation; Production; Transport; Rents; Nigeria; the *Daily Worker*; Party Propaganda; Party Education; the General Election Programme; a Policy for Health; the Co-operative Movement; the Middle Strata; Wages; the Problems of the Aged; the Women's Movement; Political Education in the Labour Movement; the Local Elections; and Parliamentary Constituencies.

In November 1954, Comrade Allen Hutt was co-opted on to the Executive Committee.

Two special extended meetings of the Executive Committee were held in May and June 1955 in connection with the General Election.

Representatives of the Executive Committee attended all district Party congresses during the period.

Visits to Brother Parties

We have sent fraternal delegates to a number of congresses of brother Parties. Comrade Pollitt attended congresses of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia; Comrades Pollitt and Stewart visited China in 1955: Comrade G. Matthews attended the Second Congress of the Polish Workers' Party; Comrade Dutt attended the Thirteenth Congress of the Communist Party of France; Comrade Betty Matthews attended the National Conference of the Communist Party of Italy; Comrade Nora Jeffery, the Congress of the Austrian Communist Party; and Comrade R. P. Dutt the Congress of the Rumanian Workers' Party.

Messages of greeting were sent to all other Communist and Workers' Party congresses taking place during the period.

3. THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE

The following comrades were elected to the Political Committee at the first meeting of the Executive Committee held after the Twenty-third Congress:

Sydney Abbott.
J. R. Campbell.
Nora Jeffery.
William Lauchlan.
Phil Piratin.

Mick Bennett.
R. Palme Dutt.
Peter Kerrigan.
John Mahon.
Harry Pollitt.

Emile Burns..
John Gollan.
James Klugmann.
George Matthews.

The following officers were elected:—

Chairman: William Gallacher.
Vice-Chairman: R. Palme Dutt.
General Secretary: Harry Pollitt.
Assistant Secretary: George Matthews.

Heads of Departments:—

Organisation: Mick Bennett.
Industrial: Peter Kerrigan.
Propaganda: Emile Burns.
Education: James Klugmann.
International: R. Palme Dutt.
Women: Nora Jeffery.

At the end of 1954, Comrade John Gollan became National Organiser, Comrade Mick Bennett becoming Assistant Editor of the *Daily Worker*.

The Political Committee has met weekly, regularly reviewed the political situation in between Executive Committee meetings, taken steps to develop the Party's activity, and made preparations for the meetings of the Executive Committee. It has issued statements on various aspects of the Party's policy when necessary.

The London and Scottish Districts have presented reports of their work, which have been discussed by the Political Committee with the district secretaries present.

Other Party districts have made reports to the Sub-Committee of the Political Committee.

A Weekly Letter reporting the decisions of the Political Committee and other committees has been sent out to members of the Executive Committee, district secretaries, and a number of other leading comrades.

4. THE SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) International Affairs Committee

The International Affairs Committee has met monthly since the last Party Congress. Consistent study and attention has been given to the rapid changes in international and colonial affairs and appropriate steps taken to provide explanatory material and articles in the Party press.

During the period under review the main reports and discussions in the International Affairs Committee have been centred on the following subjects:

Bandung Conference.	India.
Geneva Conference.	Nigeria.
United States.	Gold Coast.
Middle East.	Ireland.
Malaya.	South Africa.
South-East Asia.	Coloured Workers in Britain.

The International Affairs Committee has been ably assisted by a number of sub-committees which provide useful information, articles for the Party press, and advice on colonial problems; and also stimulate activity on various issues. By merging some smaller committees the total number is now reduced to seven, which are as follows: Asia, Africa, Middle East, West Indies, United States, Ireland, and the Jewish Committee.

The work of the sub-committees is co-ordinated through the monthly Convenors' Committee, which enables the convenors (or secretaries) of each to present reports, exchange experiences, and to discuss various problems which arise. There is also a Working Committee of full-time and other leading comrades which meets fortnightly to deal with current problems, review the progress of the work, and to prepare the subjects for the International Affairs Committee.

R. Palme Dutt presides regularly at the monthly meeting of the International Affairs Committee and the monthly Convenors' Committee, and also at the fortnightly meeting of the Working Committee. Idris Cox presides at the monthly meeting of the Africa Committee and attends most of the other sub-committee meetings in turn.

(b) Social Services Committee

The Social Services Committee has met monthly under the chairmanship of Comrade Phil Piratin. Several comrades were co-opted to make it more representative and in particular to bring it in closer touch with the Industrial Department.

The Social Services Committee prepared a memorandum on National Insurance which was adopted and sent to the Minister of National Insurance when he was reviewing the working of the National Insurance Act. This memorandum was printed and the copies were sent to all leading authorities, M.P.s etc.

Close attention has been given to the problem of rents and housing which, of all the social services, are now bearing the main brunt of the Government's attack on the workers. A conference of comrades in the new towns was convened in November 1955, which was attended by representatives from all the new towns in Southern England, with the exception of Corby, and at which the Crawley and Basildon representatives gave reports on the rent struggles and on the fight for amenities. The unique possibilities for building the Party in the new towns were stressed, and examples of Party building were given, as well as proposals for extending the struggle for better conditions.

The Committee prepared material for reports to the National Executive Committee. Comrade Bill Alexander reported on the rents and housing position and Comrade Arthur Jordan on "Problems of the Aged".

The National Health Committee was reorganised, and produced a policy statement on health which was adopted and published as a pamphlet *A Policy for Health*, following a discussion on the report in the Executive Committee introduced by Comrade Betty Matthews. The National Health Committee followed this by holding a conference in March 1955, where this report was discussed, which was attended by over 100 delegates and visitors.

The Children's Committee has discussed a number of problems, including the comics campaign, holidays with leisure, physically handicapped children, colonial children. The Committee has helped to organise the children's lectures, has produced a song book, and has prepared a number of documents.

The Social Services Committee has discussed, in addition to the items mentioned, industrial injuries, public health, smog, the aged, problems of children, education etc.

It has prepared and circulated to the District Party Committees etc. a number of documents on various matters, including the Rents Bill, local government finance, care of the aged, educational policy, smog, housing.

The Committee helped to prepare the book, *The Housing Question*, published in 1954. More attention has been given to publicising its policy and points of view, especially through the channels of the *Daily Worker* and *World News*, from whom the Committee has had the utmost consideration.

Several District Party Committees have set up social services committees during the past two years.

Day to day guidance on all matters affecting the social services has been given by Comrade Hymie Fagan, the secretary of the Social Services Committee, who is working full-time in this capacity at the Party Centre.

c) The Women's Advisory Committee

The Women's Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of Comrade Nora Jeffery, has met monthly, with half-yearly meetings attended by representatives from nineteen districts.

The Committee has discussed a variety of questions, such as peace, prices and wages, problems of women in industry, the care of children out of school and propaganda.

Special attention during the period has been given to helping the development of a much wider movement among women for peace. Communist women, under the leadership of the Committee, have played an outstanding part in the campaigns against the hydrogen bomb, German rearmament and for top-level negotiations.

The question of building the Party and its influence among women has been constantly before the Committee.

Much more has been done in this period to help our women comrades working in industry and to focus attention on the many problems of the women industrial workers.

The Committee has discussed the whole field of propaganda for women, as part of the efforts of the Party to turn out to the people, and worked out proposals for more material and more articles dealing with the big social problems women face everywhere. Special concern has been felt over the sales of our paper *Woman Today*, and constant efforts made to improve it and extend the sales.

The work of the women comrades in the elections and the Party's electoral work among women have been dealt with. Special emphasis has been laid on the need for many more women speakers and candidates.

In a number of districts women members of the Party have taken a leading part in campaigns on social issues, particularly rents, schools, and the conditions of old people.

Throughout the period the Committee has considered how best it could support the campaigns of other women's organisations for peace and improved living standards.

A report on the women's movement in Britain was prepared for the E.C. The discussion on this has given great stimulus to the work of the Committee and helped to draw the attention of the whole Party to the importance of the work. New articles, draft leaflets, and educational material have been prepared, and plans made for further development.

The Committee has continued the practice of hearing reports on the work from different districts. These reports and discussions have been very useful.

Regular visits to the Districts have been paid by members of the Committee for propaganda and educational work, and for Party discussions.

(d) Youth Advisory Committee

This Committee has continued to meet under the chairmanship of Comrade George Matthews.

Three half-yearly meetings of the full Committee with representatives from the Party Districts have been held (the April 1955 meeting being cancelled because of the General Election). The highest attendance was in December 1954, when seventeen Party Districts were represented.

The Working Committee, composed of Executive members, Y.C.L. full-time workers, a representative of the Industrial Department, and comrades working in the youth movement or responsible for Party youth work, has met monthly and continued to give attention to developing the Party's own work among young people and assisting the Young Communist League.

The Committee supervised the carrying through of the Party Youth Week in September 1954, when many district youth rallies and events were held, and a sale of 29,500 copies of *Challenge* was organised, a record for the past five years.

During this period, the Committee has paid more attention to the situation of young people in industry: with the assistance of the Industrial Department discussions have been held on youth in building, rails and distribution.

Seven Party Districts have made reports to the Committee on their work amongst youth, and the Committee has made suggestions for improving the work to the District Committees. In addition to regular visits by League full-time workers, eleven District visits have been made in connection with the Committee's work. Four Party Districts have held youth conferences or schools for Party members.

The work of the Young Communist League has been discussed on several occasions by the Committee, notably in connection with League events, recruitment, electoral work, and the Y.C.L. paper *Challenge*. The Committee sent fraternal delegates to the Congress of the Young Communist League in October 1954, and has been represented at its National and Executive Committees and schools. The Committee has received reports on the broad youth movement for international friendship and the rights of British youth, particularly in relation to the British Youth Assembly, May 1954, and the World Youth Festival, August 1955, in Warsaw. It has reviewed the work of the National Student Committee. As a result of its work, articles on a number of youth questions have appeared in the Party Press.

Finally, in the period of preparation for the Twenty-fourth Congress, the Committee has assisted in the preliminary preparation of the Congress report on the Party and Youth, and given a lead to the pre-Congress discussion of this item.

During this period Comrade Tom Madden has continued to act as secretary of the Committee.

National Student Committee

This Committee has provided detailed guidance and assistance to the work of the Communist Party and Y.C.L. members in student branches and groups

throughout Britain. The Committee met under the leadership of Tony Goss until September 1955, and since then under Colin Sweet.

The Committee has met four times a year since the last National Congress. Annual student conferences have been held in 1954 and 1955.

There has been active campaigning in support of policies for lessening international tension, with good participation in the big parliamentary lobbies of January and October 1954. During the period international student friendship has been strengthened by direct visits and exchanges with the Socialist countries. There has been extensive activity in support of the Cypriot peoples' demand for self-determination, with very positive results.

On student economic needs—for higher grants, better refectories etc.—a considerable amount of progress has been made, and Communist students have continued to win the support of their fellow students for the leadership they have given in the interests of the students generally.

In the period since the Margate 1955 Conference of the Labour Party, the number of meetings dealing with the problems of the Labour movement and the need for a larger Communist Party have increased, all of them meeting with a marked success. There exists a wide interest in the Marxist viewpoint on social and theoretical questions and the success of the work done in this sphere indicates that a more ambitious programme of activity would be well received. Two National Student Education Schools have been held, both of them highly successful, and the annual school has become an established feature of the work of the National Student Committee. The student membership of the Party has not increased, and this remains the most serious problem to be overcome.

The National Student Committee is a recognised student organisation of the National Union of Students and has sent observers to the half-yearly Council meetings of the N.U.S.

(e) Economic Committee

In the two years since the last Party Congress, the Economic Sub-Committee has prepared for the Executive Committee two annual documents, *Boom for Whom?* (1954) and *Wages, Employment and the Struggle for Markets* (1955). It has also prepared a special report on food and agricultural prices.

A public conference was organised in the spring of 1955 to consider some of the problems of monopoly raised by the publication of Comrade S. Aaronovitch's book.

The Sub-Committee, in addition to publishing its own *Economic Bulletin* quarterly, has supplied articles and materials for the *Daily Worker*, *World News*, etc. At the requests of the Architects' Group it discussed some of the economic problems of the building industry and is discussing with that group the preparation of a statement on the industry.

A special working party was set up to study the economic and financial problems of certain nationalised industries, particularly mining, transport, gas and electricity supply. This group collected the necessary data on these various industries in order to provide a basis upon which a statement could be prepared.

A week's school for economists and others was held in September 1955 and was well attended. Important questions of Marxism in the period of monopoly capitalism were discussed, which gave the sub-committee many ideas for further study and for the improvement of its work. The school also resulted in better contact between economists and active trade union comrades in many parts of the country.

The sub-committee meets regularly and has a permanent study group to carry on research on various problems. The chairman of the sub-committee is J. R. Campbell and the secretary, T. Ainley.

(f) National Cultural Committee

In January 1955 a National Cultural Discussion was held in London, and in December 1955 a successful aggregate meeting of professional and cultural groups was addressed by Harry Pollitt.

The National Cultural Committee has met every two months, and its Working Committee in the alternate months. The work and plans of the various groups are reviewed, and proposals made for further activities, with particular stress on open discussions and the preparation of material for publication. Ideological questions arising are discussed by the full Committee. In recent months the general approach

to creative work and criticism has been under discussion by the Committee and in the groups, and material is being prepared for publication.

It proved to be financially impossible to continue the publication of *Daylight*, and from January 1955 short stories have been published in *World News*.

A pamphlet, *Freedom and the Communists*, by Derek Kartun, was prepared for the National Cultural Committee and published by the Propaganda Department.

Several of the professional and cultural groups have run regular open meetings, as well as helping in the preparation of articles and books.

5. DEPARTMENTS AT THE PARTY CENTRE

(a) The Organisation Department

The Organisation Department has continued to have as its main responsibility, assistance and guidance to the Party Districts in carrying through the main campaigns of the Party, and in strengthening the Party organisations. This has been carried out by regular visits and discussions, by the meeting of District Secretaries after each Executive Committee, and by continuous correspondence and attention to the District reports and bulletins.

All comrades concerned with the very big effort to develop Party campaigning throughout this period deserve the warmest thanks of the Party. In particular the increased propaganda and activity at the factory gates has been an achievement.

Following the decisions of the Twenty-third National Congress, special attention has been paid to the membership and dues position of the Party. Following the series of aggregate meetings addressed by Comrade Pollitt and the National Organiser, Comrade Gollan (already referred to on page 7 of this report), a special report was made to the March 1955 Executive Committee by the National Organiser, which was later issued as a folder under the title *Build the Communist Party*. This raised a number of fundamental problems of Party growth, and was followed by widespread discussion throughout the Party.

Much of the work of the Department has been directed since that time to the follow-up of the decisions taken at this E.C. An organisation handbook *Forging the Weapon* has been issued, and a syllabus for the training of branch secretaries has already been the basis for a number of schools throughout the country. Preparations are now being made for similar training material and schools for full-time Area secretaries.

Consistent attention has been paid month by month to membership and dues, with the aim of overcoming the still serious fluctuation in membership—a problem which is very much bound up with the proper political functioning of our Party branches.

The membership re-registered in February 1955 was 32,681. In March 1954 it had been 33,943. At the time of going to press the 1956 registration is in progress, and on this occasion, by decision of the March Executive Committee, the period of registration is being confined to the months of December and January, so that the new figure for 1956 membership will be taken from the beginning of February 1956.

During this period many Party organisations have encountered serious financial difficulties, and the Department is now giving consideration to the problem of strengthening the financial work of the Party.

Special attention is now being given to the development of factory branches, using the experience of some of the best organised branches. A successful conference on the work of the Party in small towns and country areas made a number of proposals for the development of this work, including a recall conference to review the results in a year's time.

Discussions are now being held with the Districts concerned and with leading mining comrades on how best to develop the work of the Party in mining areas.

Throughout the period the question of the circulation of the *Daily Worker* has been closely under review, and has been a feature of discussions with the Districts.

The Department has worked consistently to develop the Party's electoral work along the lines of the September 1953 E.C. decisions. Comrade Reuben Falber, the National Election Agent, has visited all Districts and those constituencies where we have adopted parliamentary candidates to discuss the development of the all-round activity of the Party, the popularisation of our candidates and building

up of election organisation. The first edition of the guide *Win the Local Councils* was sold out and a new edition, taking into account our experiences in the 1955 parliamentary and local elections, has been issued. A guide to the work of the local authorities has been prepared and also a syllabus for use at schools of candidates and agents. Other materials have been prepared for the *Daily Worker* and *World News*.

This period has seen a considerable expansion in the scope of our electoral fight, and the figures for the elections contested will be seen in the section on the Executive Committee (page 5).

(b) Industrial Department

Since the last Congress there has been a considerable sharpening and extension of the class struggle in the industrial field, especially during the past year.

The Department has given full support to the efforts of the trade unions to establish 100 per cent trade unionism backed by strong job organisation and active well-attended union branches. It has emphasised the potentialities of the Co-operative movement in combatting rising prices. Continuous attention has been paid to the need to increase the number of women members in the unions and establish the principle of equal pay for equal work.

A number of discussions have taken place in the Department with our industrial comrades to win new members for the Party and the Y.C.L. and to strengthen and extend our Party organisation in the enterprises. This question has been placed in the forefront of all our work.

To aid the workers' efforts to improve wages and conditions, the Department has been responsible for supplying articles and material for the *Daily Worker*, *World News* and other publications. These have carried a wide range of issues affecting the trade union, Labour and Co-operative movement.

In co-operation with the Propaganda Department the Department has helped in the production of pamphlets on wages, mining, the Co-operative movement, farming, distribution and productivity.

A feature of the work over the latter part of this two-year period has been the effort to help improve the industrial content of the *Daily Worker*, particularly the Friday issue, and at the same time increase its circulation among industrial workers.

The Department has continued to give help to those Districts where the textile industry exists and has reviewed the position at regular intervals.

It has also discussed and made policy proposals on new developments, such as automation.

As part of the fight for international trade union unity and in defence of democratic rights it has given help to the cause of Greek, Spanish and colonial trade unionists as well as outstanding international victims of political and racial persecution like Paul Robeson. It assisted in the successful campaign on behalf of Johnnie Williamson and is endeavouring to help the efforts of American trade unionists in their fight for democratic rights. It has continued to campaign actively against political discrimination and for more democracy in the British trade union movement.

It has tried to keep the issue of peace to the forefront among trade unionists by opposing the rearmament of Western Germany and supporting the creation of an effective all-embracing system of European security.

Attention has also been given to winning the support of the trade unions for a cut in the call-up to twelve months.

The Department has assisted in the preparation of District Industrial Conferences. Members of the Department have paid regular visits to most of our Party Districts.

(c) Propaganda Department

PUBLICATIONS.—In 1954-55 the Central Propaganda Department published thirty-two titles, dealing with various issues and topical questions, including the 148-page *Allies for Freedom*—in all some 425,000 copies. Eight broadsheets and folders were also produced, totalling 470,000 copies; and five educational syllabuses, totalling 23,000 copies. Some extremely useful pamphlets have also been published by Districts.

PERIODICALS.—The transformation of *World News and Views* into the more

attractive *World News*, beginning in January 1954, met with widespread approval. Circulation at 14,000 copies a week, however, still leaves room for improvement.

Marxist Quarterly, which took the place of *The Communist Review* in January 1954, has also become firmly established. The Party has continued its support for *Labour Monthly*, whose influence on the broad Labour movement has been of great importance.

LITERATURE.—A successful national Literature Conference, attended by representatives from all Districts, was held in 1954; this has been followed by District and Area Propaganda and Literature Conferences, and District comrades responsible for literature have visited the Centre for discussion of their problems. The work has also been strengthened by the publication of a pamphlet, *Literature as a Political Weapon*.

LEAFLETS.—Fourteen leaflets were issued centrally (including five used in constituencies contested by us in the General Election), to a total of 1,247,000. In addition, 1,300,000 of our Election Manifesto were distributed. There has also been a great development of District, Area and Branch leaflets.

POSTERS.—The Party made extensive use of double-crown posters produced by the Central Propaganda Department for poster parades against German rearmament and on the Four-Power talks, 8,000 being distributed; in addition to 1,500 of a pictorial poster, printed in two colours.

For our constituencies in the General Election, the Department supplied 120 six-sheet and 740 quad crown posters.

SPEAKERS' NOTES.—Duplicated notes on current issues, and on the Party, have been issued at frequent intervals. In addition, *World News* prints regular "Talking Points".

MEETINGS.—The number of public meetings held with speakers supplied by Central Propaganda Department for the two years 1954-55 is approximately 350, recently increased in connection with the campaign "The People Will Decide". Districts and Branches have held a very large number of meetings with their own speakers or those from neighbouring Districts, as well as Invitation and Open Branch Meetings.

Of the 350 meetings mentioned above, forty-five were Joint Rallies organised by the Party and *Daily Worker* to celebrate thirty-five years of the Party and the Silver Jubilee of the paper.

It is impossible to estimate the number of meetings held in connection with parliamentary and council elections. Central Propaganda Department provided a van with film unit for touring our constituencies during the General Election, and valuable work was done with this.

Central Propaganda Department has also supplied speakers on Party policy to a number of organisations.

In order to stimulate the holding of meetings in areas outside London which could not normally pay the rather heavy fares involved, the Political Committee decided to introduce a National Speakers' Fares Pool, and this will be continued in the coming period.

THE PRESS.—Executive and Political Committee statements are regularly sent to the Press; and in many places the local press has published reports of Party meetings, and also many letters stating the Party's policy.

(d) Education Department

NATIONAL SCHOOLS.—Between September 1954 and September 1955, eleven national schools were organised, including a one-month school for leading Party cadres, three industrial schools, a school for transport workers, schools for women and youth cadres and general schools on economic problems, history of the British Labour movement and the national and colonial questions. Three weeks of summer schools were organised in co-operation with the Welsh and Lancashire Districts. A number of residential one-week and week-end schools were organised by the main District Committees, including a Scottish miners' school, a Northern England youth school (in co-operation with the Y.C.L.) and some very successful women's schools.

Ten national schools are planned for the study year 1955-56, of which the first has already taken place. Two District women's schools (Yorkshire and Scotland), each with over 100 students, have been held in the current study year. Further District schools and summer schools are included in the plan.

BRANCH EDUCATION.—The development of education in the Party Branches has been the main point of concentration in the study year 1954-55 and 1955-56. In the last eighteen months, Marxist study themes for branch study have been issued on the British State and on the role of the Communist Party. Other syllabuses issued included an introductory course *Our Aim is Socialism* for Branch officials, and a syllabus for Branch Secretaries and officials on *The Communist Party and the Role of the Party Branches*, prepared jointly with the Organisation Department. Special educational material has been prepared for use by the women's groups. A syllabus for the use of Party candidates and agents in the local elections is under preparation jointly with the Organisation Department.

PERSONAL STUDY.—Reading programmes to further the development of personal study have been issued on British Labour History, The British State and The Role of the Communist Party. *A Readers' Manual* is under preparation to help the further spread of personal study.

MARXIST EDUCATION AND THE LABOUR MOVEMENT.—The last two study year programmes stress the importance of developing Marxist education in the mass Labour movement, and contain guidance for the organisation of public lectures, indoor and outdoor, and open discussions of an educational character.

(e) Women's Department

The Women's Department has been responsible for carrying through the decisions of the Women's Committee.

This has been done by regular visits to the Districts, by regular letters and correspondence on special issues and problems.

The Department has given continual attention to the social problems that concern women and helped the districts in dealing with these.

Draft leaflets and speakers' notes for special use among women have been prepared. Help has been continually given in the preparation of articles for *World News* and the *Daily Worker*.

The Department has worked closely with other Departments at the Centre. Jointly with the Industrial Department, special attention has been paid to questions affecting women in industry.

With the help of the Education Department new material for the women's groups is being prepared. The production of historical material has been continued. A very great extension of week, week-end and day schools for women has been achieved.

The production of *Woman Today*, carried through with the help of an editorial committee, has been part of the work of the Department.

A central aim of the Department has been to keep constantly before the Districts the possibilities of building the Party among women. Much work has therefore been done to encourage the holding of special women's invitation meetings and extending the Party women's groups.

(f) International Department

The first big event after the last Congress for which the International Department had a special responsibility was the Second Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties within the sphere of British imperialism. Delegates attended from eight Parties outside Britain, observers from three others, and messages of greetings came from Parties in four other countries. The reports, speeches and resolutions of the conference are published in the book *Allies for Freedom*, price 6s., of which 1,150 copies have been sold up to October this year—nearly 400 abroad.

During the period under review the International Department has provided reports and information to the Political Committee and Executive Committee on international and colonial affairs, material and articles for the Party press in Britain and abroad, and assisted in planning and carrying through solidarity campaigns on important issues which have arisen.

Main issues of solidarity with the colonial liberation movement have been in relation to Malaya, Kenya, British Guiana, Northern Rhodesia and Cyprus. The *Daily Worker* and *World News* and other Party journals have featured prominently in the colonial struggle for liberation. As well as activity on direct colonial issues efforts have been made to organise pressure in Britain against attacks on democratic rights and civil liberties in Iran, Iraq, Egypt and elsewhere.

There has been a big advance in the solidarity campaign against the attacks on civil liberties and democratic rights in the U.S.A., in defence of trade union rights, and against the attacks on the Communist Party and its leaders. At our last Congress there was an emergency resolution demanding the repatriation of John Williamson. This campaign was successful, and John Williamson is now foremost in this campaign, in which particular stress is laid on the demand that Paul Robeson gets back his passport to enable him to travel to fulfil engagements outside the U.S.A.

Since the last Congress there has been closer co-operation with the Industrial Department with the aim of raising the level of consciousness among industrial workers and within the Labour movement on the common fight with the colonial liberation movement. Regular consultation has taken place with the Education Department, and a number of classes, District schools and a residential national week school have been held in 1954 and 1955 on the national and colonial problem.

Particular attention has been given to the problems arising from the growing number of coloured workers coming into Britain. Reactionary forces have been able in the Midlands and elsewhere to create a situation which has given rise to colour-bar tendencies. The Political Committee statement on this issue was published in 40,000 leaflets, and a special pamphlet *No Colour Bar for Britain* by Phil Bolsover, of which nearly 5,000 copies have been sold.

Advisory committees on colonial problems and activity exist now in five districts—London, Scotland, Lancashire, Midlands and East Midlands—though the scale of their activity is uneven. Since the last Congress, propaganda visits to Districts by R. Palme Dutt and Idris Cox have been combined with special attention to colonial activity, and Idris Cox has made special visits to Scotland, Lancashire and East Midlands to discuss measures for stimulating the work as well as tackling the problems of coloured workers and students in these Districts.

6. YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

The membership of the Young Communist League in February 1955 at the end of the re-registration period was 2,623 compared with 2,838 in April 1954.

The average weekly sale of *Challenge* over the last two years has been about 9,000. More copies have been sold of special issues, but in the last six months the regular order has declined to 8,100.

The Twentieth National Congress of the League was held in October 1954 and was attended by 216 delegates. The Congress paid considerable attention to the need to improve the branch life of the League, to work in industry and to the need of the Labour movement to appeal to youth.

Branch Night Notes have been issued monthly on varied topics to help the improvement of branch life.

The "Cut the Call-Up" campaign has gone ahead with some success and many activities have been organised to promote it. The demand has now been widely supported in the Labour and trade union movement.

In the General Election campaign of the Party, the League gave all possible help in the seventeen constituencies contested by Communist candidates: 140 young people joined the League during this period.

A considerable campaign was waged against the expulsion of one of the League's National Committee members from the Boy Scouts.

The League has been represented abroad at a number of conferences and on youth delegations, including the sending of two fraternal delegates to the Twelfth Congress of the Lenin Young Communist League of the Soviet Union.

The League has continued to support the activities of the British Youth Festival Committee. Assistance was given to the campaign for the Assembly of British Youth in 1954, which was attended by 1,400 representatives of young people from many organisations.

The League was also represented at the Fifth World Youth Festival in Warsaw in the summer of 1955, which was attended by some 1,200 young people from Britain.

Along with delegates representing over 500,000 people, the League supported the conference on the militarisation of youth held in Leeds in December 1955.

Publications: *Youth Speaks Out*, 2d. Various national leaflets in 40,000-50,000 copies each, on the call-up, German rearmament, the "Red Scout" etc.

7. "DAILY WORKER"

The *Daily Worker* has maintained a very high standard of working-class journalism. Its consistent championing of the wages fight has brought expressions of thanks from trade union executives, shop stewards and strike committees, and individual readers.

It has campaigned consistently for peace and the ending of the Cold War, for higher living standards and against the flagrant class policy of the Tory Government. During the General Election, it fulfilled with credit its special responsibilities, publishing several six-page editions to enable it to give maximum coverage to the central issues of the campaign.

The *Daily Worker's* winning first place in 1954, with *The Times*, in the first Annual Award for Newspaper Design was a great achievement for our paper and our Party, especially considering the modesty of our paper's technical resources.

Prior to the Labour Party Conference this year, the *Daily Worker* convened a successful national conference to discuss a policy for the Labour movement and the key problem of working-class unity.

In recent months, special attention has been paid to the Friday issue. Industrial features and news have been given particular prominence to help the building of circulation in factory, pit and depot.

Despite the high praise the *Daily Worker* has won, it has not been successful in maintaining its circulation. This factor, combined with big increases in production costs, has meant a continual battle against financial difficulties. A series of far-reaching economy measures delayed, but could not prevent, the cut of the Final (Midnight) Edition. When a number of the big capitalist newspapers increased their price last autumn, the *Daily Worker* had to follow suit and raise its price to 2½d. in November.

Capital of the People's Press Printing Society has been reasonably well maintained, and the Society still has a membership of 32,000, including nearly 900 trade unions and other working-class organisations.

The Fighting Fund was given a great fillip by the "Jubilee Bob" appeal to mark the beginning of the paper's jubilee year, and the special target of £5,000 was substantially exceeded. The Jubilee Rally at the Albert Hall was a great success, and over fifty celebration meetings were held jointly with the Communist Party throughout the country. The special Jubilee Edition, published on 8 January 1955, sold over 150,000 copies.

While the Fighting Fund did not normally achieve its monthly target of £3,750, the Jubilee response and the £10,976 response to the special call at the time of the newspaper strike brought the yearly total to £44,000 as against the target total of £42,000, and showed the great possibilities that exist.

The bazaars have continued to make their substantial contribution to the paper's finances.

Increase in circulation remains the key to the solution of the *Daily Worker's* difficulties. Readership must be increased, not only because this offers the sole long-term solution of the paper's problems, but to increase the punch of our main weapon in the fight for peace, unity, and a Socialist Britain.

8. PUBLICATIONS SINCE JANUARY 1954

Pamphlets

The Challenge to Labour	..	..	..	..	..	..	25,000	1s. 0d.
23rd Congress Resolutions and Proceedings	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,000	6d.
The People on the March	..	..	..	..	..	..	32,000	3d.
The Party of Socialism	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	3d.
The Communist Party and the Labour Party	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	3d.
The British Road to Socialism (Reprint)	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	4d.
In Defence of Peace	..	..	..	..	..	..	70,000	4d.
When the Whistle Blows	..	..	..	..	..	..	12,000	3d.
Productivity—For Whom?	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,000	6d.
Time for More in the Pay Packet	..	..	..	..	..	..	5,000	3d.
Wages Increase for Miners	..	..	..	..	..	..	30,000	3d.
The Future for Miners	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	3d.
Distributive Workers in the Fight for Increased Wages	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	2d.
Farming to Feed Britain	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	6d.

A Call to Co-operators .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5,000	6d.
Rents Must Not Go Up .. .	..	..	..	..	..	25,000	3d.
Memorandum on National Insurance .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	9d.
Your Insurance Benefit .. .	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	2d.
A Policy for Health .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2,500	1s. 0d.
Indian Diary .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	1s. 0d.
No Colour Bar for Britain .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5,000	3d.
Freedom and the Communists .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5,000	6d.
Freedom Outlawed in U.S.A. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5,000	4d.
Win the Local Elections .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2,000	6d.
Local Election Facts .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1,500	6d.
Searchlight on the Tories .. .	..	..	..	..	..	30,000	2d.
A Policy for Britain .. .	..	..	..	..	..	60,000	3d.
Build the Communist Party .. .	..	..	..	..	..	25,000	2d.
Forging the Weapon .. .	..	..	..	..	..	7,000	
Literature as a Political Weapon .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5,000	3d.
Allies for Freedom .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	6s. 0d.

Folders and Broadsheets

The Good Life .. .	..	..	..	..	..	50,000	2d.
No Arms for Germany .. .	..	..	..	..	..	60,000	1d.
The People Will Decide .. .	..	..	..	..	..		1d.
The Fight Goes On .. .	..	..	..	..	..	100,000	1d.
C.P. Special .. .	..	..	..	..	..	84,250	1d.
Communists Show the Way .. .	..	..	..	..	..	115,500	1d.
Vote for Life .. .	..	..	..	..	..	15,000	1d.
Africa—The Stark Truth .. .	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	1d.
Welcome into the Communist Party .. .	..	..	..	..	..	15,000	

Syllabuses

Socialism and the British Labour Movement, I .. .	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	6d.
Socialism and the British Labour Movement, II .. .	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	6d.
The British State .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	6d.
Our Aim is Socialism .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5,000	6d.
The Communist Party and the Role of the Branches .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5,000	4d.
The Role of the Communist Party .. .	..	..	..	..	..	3,000	6d.

Leaflets

Never Again .. .	..	..	..	..	..	215,000	
Never Again (Revised) .. .	..	..	..	..	..	70,000	
No Rearmament of German Militarism .. .	..	..	..	..	..	276,000	
Let Labour Lead .. .	..	..	..	..	..
Churchill's Challenge to Labour .. .	..	..	..	..	..	332,000	
Not a Man, Not a Gun, for Indo-China .. .	..	..	..	..	..	100,000	
Stop Stirring Up Race Hatred .. .	..	..	..	..	..	40,000	
Make Life on the Land Worth While .. .	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	
Boot and Shoe Workers and the Future .. .	..	..	..	..	..	13,000	
Boom—for Whom? .. .	..	..	..	..	..	40,000	
The Tories Want This .. .	..	..	..	..	..	40,000	
A Real Peace Policy .. .	..	..	..	..	..	45,000	
Justice for the Old People .. .	..	..	..	..	..	36,000	
What Do You Want for Your Children? .. .	..	..	..	..	..	40,000	
Election Manifesto .. .	..	..	..	..	..

Posters

Stop German Rearmament—Pictorial double-crown .. .	..	..	1,425	
Set of six double-crowns, Against German Rearmament, 500 sets .. .	..	..	3,000	
Set of five double-crowns, Four-Power Talks, 500 sets .. .	..	..	2,500	
Silkscreen Election Posters—				
30 in. x 40 in., four kinds, 160 of each .. .	..	..	640	
120 in. x 80 in., four kinds, 120 of each .. .	..	..	480	

9. REPORT OF APPEALS COMMITTEE

In the period covered by this Report to date, 10 November, the Appeals Committee has heard the Appeals of four comrades against disciplinary decisions made against them. In each case there was a close examination of lengthy statements made. Applicants appeared personally or accompanied by supporters.

In two cases the appeal was rejected. In the other two cases the appeal was upheld and discussions arranged with the Party organisations and with the comrades concerned.

R. STEWART (Chairman).
J. GASTER.
M. JORDAN.
LEO McGREE.

R. McILHONE.
R. W. ROBSON.
G. SHORT.

10. OBITUARY

During this period we have lost many good comrades who have had records of long service and outstanding contributions to the work of our Party. We have paid tribute to their memories in the columns of the Party press. Here we have space to mention only a few of those whose names are most widely known.

HELEN CRAWFORD ANDERSON, of Scotland, foundation member of our Party. MICHAEL MCALPIN (JACK FLANAGAN), who died suddenly after outstanding work as Features Editor of the *Daily Worker*.

KATH DUNCAN, well known for her leading part in the unemployed struggles of the thirties, after a long and painful illness.

T. A. JACKSON, known throughout the world as outstanding Marxist writer and lecturer.

HYMIE KANTER, trade union organiser with a long record of work in East London.

HARRY SHEPPERSON, of Birmingham, foundation member of our Party.

WALTER STEVENS, General Secretary of the E.T.U., after a tragic road accident.

VIC SMITHAM, foundation member of our Party, after a long and painful illness.

S. ABBOTT	W. GALLACHER	W. LAUCHLAN
T. AHERN	J. GARDNER	J. MAHON
W. ALEXANDER	J. GOLLAN	BETTY MATTHEWS
B. BEHAN	IDA HACKETT	GEORGE MATTHEWS
M. BENNETT	F. HART	A. MOFFAT
ELINOR BURNS	F. HAXELL	M. MORRIS
EMILE BURNS	J. HORNER	W. MCLEAN
G. CABORN	A. HUTT	P. PIRATIN
J. R. CAMPBELL	NORA JEFFERY	H. POLLITT
EVE COHEN	A. JORDAN	B. RAMELSON
FRANCES DEAN	P. KERRIGAN	F. STANLEY
E. DICKENS	A. KETTLE	N. WALSH
H. DICKENSON	J. KLUGMANN	W. WARMAN
R. P. DUTT	HILDA KUNES	

Executive Committee

of the Communist Party

11. STATEMENTS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following is a list of some of the main E.C. statements issued during the period and available in the appropriate issue of World News.

1954

- April May Day Manifesto.
- 24 July The Cease-Fire in Indo-China.
- 19 Aug. Letter to President Eisenhower *re* outlawing Communism in U.S.A.
- 12 Oct. Against German Rearmament.
- 14 Nov. Against German Rearmament.
- 19 Nov. Protest against the proceedings to outlaw the German C.P.
- 4 Dec. Against German Rearmament.
- 4 Dec. The Boundary Commission's proposals for altering Parliamentary Constituencies.

1955

- 9 Feb. General Election Programme.
- 15 Feb. Coloured Workers in Britain.
- 12 May The Situation in the Labour Party.
- 3 May General Election Manifesto.
- 12 Sept. Demand Freedom for Cyprus.
- 8 Oct. Disarmament.
- 17 Oct. Cut the Call-up.
- 20 Nov. The Geneva Conference of Foreign Ministers.
- 3 Dec. Cyprus.

**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FROM 1 OCTOBER 1953 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 1955**

	INCOME	EXPENDITURE
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Balance brought forward	... ...	2,112 8 2
<u>Membership—</u>		
Cards and Dues Stamps	... ...	25,866 11 4
Less Transferred to Election Fund	... ...	4,591 10 3
	21,275	1 1
<u>Contributions to General Fund—</u>		
Weekly Quotas to Centre raised by Districts and Branches by regular guarantees	... ...	12,030 0 10
Donations and Fighting Fund	... ...	26,968 3 9
	38,998	4 7
<u>Sales of Literature, Campaign and Organisational Material</u>	25,105 9 0	
Bank Interest and other Sundry Receipts	... ...	402 19 10
Balance, overdrawn, carried forward	... ...	766 19 11
<u>Central Office Expenses—</u>		
Rent, Rates, Taxes, Light and Heat	... ...	5,227 1 8
Furniture, Equipment and Office Maintenance	... ...	1,432 7 9
Stationery	... ...	1,156 16 11
Postages, Telephones and Telegraphs	... ...	2,869 14 11
Wages, Pensions and Allowances	... ...	33,078 8 6
Library, Newspapers and Reference Material	... ...	92 8 8
<u>Committee Expenses—</u>		
Executive Committee Fares and Expenses, and other National Committee Expenses	... ...	6,342 8 4
Subscriptions and Donations	... ...	608 11 0
<u>Printing—</u>		
Literature, Campaign and Organisational Material	... ...	30,568 9 3
<u>Education—</u>		
Hire of Halls and Rooms, Fares and Expenses of Schools	... ...	2,584 10 2
Travelling and other Departmental Charges	... ...	4,358 9 4
Congress, 1954, and Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties in Countries within the sphere of British Imperialism—	... ...
Excess of Payments over Receipts	... ...	341 16 1
		<u>£88,661 2 7</u>
		<u>£88,661 2 7</u>

Report of the Auditors.

We have examined the above Income and Expenditure Account with the books and vouchers and certify that it is correct.

December 21st, 1955.

W. HOLMES
Auditors.